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United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the twenty-fourth quarterly report on the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). It is submitted by the Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999).

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Twenty-fourth quarterly report on the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

I. Introduction

1. The present report, which is the twenty-fourth submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 December 2005 to 28 February 2006.

II. Developments

2. During the period under review, the Acting Executive Chairman continued the practice of briefing the respective Presidents of the Security Council, representatives of Member States and officials of the Secretariat on the activities of UNMOVIC. He also briefed all the new non-permanent members of the Council individually.

3. During the reporting period the Acting Executive Chairman visited Vienna and held discussions with Dorothea Auer, Head of the Department for Disarmament and Arms Control of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He then travelled to Moscow where he had discussions with Sergey V. Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Yakovenko, Deputy Minister, and officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. In New York he held discussions with the Chairman of the Panel of Government Experts on Verification in All its Aspects, as well as the Chairman of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission.

Compendium

4. The summary of the compendium of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes had been provided to the College of Commissioners in the previous quarter for their review. It has now been revised in the light of their comments and UNMOVIC expects to submit it to the Council shortly. As for the compendium itself, work continues on some issues, while the whole document is being examined for the deletion of proliferation-sensitive information.

III. Other activities

Chemical Weapons Convention

5. In its submission to the Committee established by resolution 1540 (2004) (S/AC.44/2004/(02)/116), Iraq stated that it intends to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention.[1] UNMOVIC is therefore preparing to respond to any request for assistance on the subject of the initial declarations required under the Convention. For this purpose, the relevant requirements are being studied and the sources of information that UNMOVIC has access to (inspection reports, Iraq's

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.

disarmament declarations, supporting documentation, etc.) are being assembled and evaluated. Although the declaration requirements for chemical weapons under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and under the Convention are not identical, the information provided to the United Nations by Iraq, or collected by inspectors during more than 10 years of inspection, is directly relevant and will enable UNMOVIC to provide support in this area.

Muthanna chemical weapons facility

6. In its previous report (S/2005/742, para. 7), the Commission referred to hazards arising from the conditions at the former Iraqi chemical warfare production plant at Muthanna. The Commission's experts have carried out a review of its information concerning the items and materials at this site. A detailed inventory of the site has been compiled on the basis of existing records. It should be recalled that under a handover protocol agreed between Iraq and the Commission in 1994, the Government of Iraq still has obligations concerning the security and safety of the site.

IV. Other issues

Archives

7. UNMOVIC has initiated an internal review of its substantive records to identify issues that will need to be addressed should those records eventually be transferred to the United Nations archives. An initial presentation on this matter was given to the College of Commissioners at its session in November 2005. A number of Commissioners subsequently offered to facilitate contact with the relevant governmental experts in their countries on national procedures for dealing with archived material, and UNMOVIC officials have attended briefing sessions with experts from France, Germany, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Discussions have also been held with the Archives and Records Management Section of the Secretariat and with relevant staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). A working paper on the matter requested by the UNMOVIC Commissioners was prepared for consideration by the College at its session in February 2006.

Field offices

8. For security reasons, the Department of Safety and Security has decided to redeploy all United Nations assets from the Canal compound in Baghdad to the international zone. The Canal compound houses United Nations offices including the UNMOVIC Monitoring and Verification Centre. Since UNMOVIC still has considerable assets in storage at the Canal compound, the UNMOVIC staff of seven nationals has been instructed to store specific items in shipping containers for movement to the international zone and to other locations. This redeployment includes the complete transfer of laboratory equipment, remaining inspection equipment, weapons artefacts, transportation and communication equipment, office equipment, vehicles and furniture. Given the sensitivity of some of the equipment, UNMOVIC has arranged to send two international staff from its Cyprus field office to supervise the redeployment. Although there is room in the international zone for

the storage of equipment, there is very limited space for personnel. Arrangements have been made with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to locate two UNMOVIC personnel in shared United Nations offices in order to cover the Commission's present needs for office space and to continue to maintain and dispose of equipment, as required. The issue of office and laboratory space will be addressed after the Security Council revisits the mandate of UNMOVIC and IAEA.

9. The Cyprus field office sent three staff members, two international and one national, to attend the security awareness induction programme in Amman from 6 to 9 February, in preparation for entering Iraq. The field office continues to maintain the equipment stored in Cyprus and to provide day-to-day supervision of the Baghdad staff. Whenever appropriate, the staff of the field office has continued to work with customs in Larnaca to facilitate shipments of other United Nations agencies.

Staffing

10. At the end of March 2006, UNMOVIC headquarters core staff at the Professional level will total 38, down from 41 at the end of 2005. The staff is drawn from 21 nationalities; eight are women.

Technical visits, meetings and workshops

11. UNMOVIC continues to follow dual-use technology developments and to assess the implications for its mandate and the potential application of new technologies in detection, monitoring and verification.

12. An UNMOVIC expert attended the annual meeting of the States parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention[2] held in Geneva in December 2005. The meeting discussed and aimed at promoting common understanding of the content, promulgation and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists in the biological field. Participants were from Governments, international organizations and private institutions.

13. In January 2006, UNMOVIC experts attended a homeland security technology demonstration at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, United States. Some of the latest detection and monitoring equipment and technologies relevant to the UNMOVIC mandate were presented, including the newest hand-held or portable equipment for the detection of chemical, biological and radiological agents.

14. In February, UNMOVIC provided a briefing on its experience, expertise and lessons learned to the Panel of Government Experts on Verification in All its Aspects, which was meeting in New York to prepare a report pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/60.

15. UNMOVIC technical staff attended the twentieth international forum on process analytical technology held in February in Arlington, Virginia, United States. The conference featured presentations by experts from the chemical, petrochemical, refining and pharmaceutical industries on how process analytical technology can be used to improve the performance and productivity of industry. The presentations included sessions on molecular sensors, spectroscopy, chromatography and sampling systems. In addition, workshops at the conference promoted discussion of

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

the methods and tools to be used in the monitoring and verification of chemical and biological production.

Training

16. UNMOVIC conducted a training course in Argentina from 28 November to 8 December 2005. Nineteen experts from the UNMOVIC roster from 16 countries and one UNMOVIC staff member attended the course as trainees. The main objectives of the course were (a) to develop a good technical understanding by the trainees of the technologies used in the manufacture of solid propellant missiles, in particular the production of solid propellants themselves, and (b) to improve trainees' skills for the design of monitoring regimes for solid propellant production sites. This was the first technologies course relating to missiles. As a result of the course, the first group of roster personnel has been trained to create monitoring regimes for key facilities involved in the production of solid propellant missiles. The Commission is grateful to the Government of Argentina for its support for this training course.

17. The course in Argentina was the thirty-third UNMOVIC training course. The next training course, on biological production technologies, will be held in Brazil starting on 6 March.

V. College of Commissioners

18. The UNMOVIC College of Commissioners convened in New York for its twenty-second regular session on 21 and 22 February. Observers from IAEA and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons attended the session.

19. The Acting Executive Chairman briefed the Commissioners on the activities of UNMOVIC since their last meeting and on the activities planned for the following quarter. In addition, presentations were made on new technologies that may affect United Nations monitoring and verification and on issues arising from the 1994 handover protocol agreed with Iraq relating to the chemical warfare agent production facility at Muthanna.

20. The College welcomed the Acting Executive Chairman's introductory statement, the working paper on archiving the mission's collection of material and the two presentations referred to in paragraph 19 above.

21. The College supported the Commission's ongoing activities as outlined by the Chairman and detailed in the quarterly report. The College welcomed the fact that the compendium (see para. 4 above) was nearing completion. It noted the Chairman's intention to produce a version of the compendium without any proliferation-sensitive or other confidential information for open access and the decision to prepare a manual containing a detailed description of the Commission's training experience, including curricula and lessons learned. With respect to the summary of the compendium, on which the College had been consulted and had provided comments, the Commissioners recommended its publication as a document of the Security Council given its importance.

22. The College had an initial exchange of views on the working paper on archiving and the issues outlined therein. All Commissioners agreed on the importance of properly organizing the material as a prerequisite to any archiving

solution that might ultimately be adopted. The College felt that this was a very important activity. Many Commissioners indicated their intention to seek expert advice in their home countries and to send further comments in due course.

23. The College further noted the developing security and safety conditions in the Muthanna State Establishment and the reports of increased agricultural activity in the area. It shared the Chairman's concern that the handover protocol was not being implemented.

24. It was decided tentatively to hold the next meeting of the College on 23 and 24 May 2006.

25. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commissioners were consulted on the content of the present report.